

# NEWS RELEASE

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## AUSTRALIAN LABOUR FORCE PROJECTIONS TO 2005

Australia's civilian labour force could reach 10.9 million persons by the year 2005, according to projections released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

These projections represent an increase of 2.4 million persons compared with the estimate of the labour force in mid 1990.

They are based on a study of labour force participation rate trend estimates to August 1990 and Australian population projections from 1989 to 2031. Two sets of projections are presented, corresponding to the "high" and "low" population projections published by the ABS in November 1990.

For both males and females, the major gains in labour force numbers are projected to occur for the 45-54 year age group. Between 1990 and 2005 the male labour force in this age group is projected to rise by up to 402,000, an increase of 33 per cent. For females, an increase of up to 558,000 or 51 per cent is projected.

Persons in older age groups are projected to contribute a larger share of the labour force. The representation of the 55-64 year age group is projected to grow from 7.6 per cent of the total labour force in 1990 to as much as 9.2 per cent in 2005.

The average annual growth rate for the male labour force is projected to reach 1.2 per cent between 1990 and 2005, and for females, 2.5 per cent over the same period. Such results would shift the male/female ratio of the labour force from 59 per cent/41 per cent in 1990 to 54 per cent/46 per cent in 2005.

The male labour force participation rate is projected to decline from 75.6 per cent in 1990 to as low as 71.1 per cent in 2005, reflecting the substantially higher proportion of the male population aged 65 and over and a marked fall in the proportion of males aged 25-44.

For females, participation rates for each age group are generally projected to rise resulting in an increase in the overall participation rate from 52.2 per cent in 1990 up to 60.3 per cent in 2005.

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Full details are in ***Labour Force Projections, Australia, 1992-2005*** (Cat. No. 6260.0) available from ABS bookshops in all capital cities at \$15 a copy.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

*Statistical*  
Ian Clout  
(06) 2526018

*Media*  
Brian McKibbin  
(06) 2527480